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NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

APR 30 '52

BAN THE DAMS 1

ANNUAL MEETING 1,2

I.U.P.N. 3,4

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We expect to maintain a supply of extra copies of each issue from Number 8 on.

Volume 1 - Number 9

August 1951

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
1214 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

THE NATIONAL SCENE

DAM BUILDING IN NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS would be banned by H.R. 5023, a bill introduced on August 1st by Congressman Leroy Johnson of California. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of which Congressman John R. Murdock is chairman. It comes at a time of ever-increasing demands for exploitation of the parks and monuments. The threat to Dinosaur National Monument is the outstanding example, but it is only one of many. This bill deserves your full support! Because of its importance, we quote it in full:

A BILL

To prohibit the construction, operation, or maintenance of any project for the storage or delivery of water within or affecting any national park or monument.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to carry out the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (30 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C., 1936 edition, secs. 1-4), which expressly requires that all national parks and monuments be administered so as to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, the construction, operation or maintenance of any dam, reservoir, power plant or other project for the storage or delivery of water within, or which by reason of its location may adversely affect, any national park or monument is hereby prohibited.

Sec. 2. The provisions of section 1 of this Act shall not apply to any project constructed, operated, or maintained as an incident to the administration of any park or monument or to projects now being constructed, operated, or maintained within such areas.

Sec. 3. All provisions of law inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

ANNUAL MEETING of the Conservancy for 1951 will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Wednesday, September 12. Time: 2:00 P.M.; Place: Murphy Hall Auditorium, University of Minnesota. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the Ecological Society of America and other member societies of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Program of our meeting will include the following:

1) Symposium: "How to get a natural area preservation movement under way in your state". Reports on activities in various states will be included.

2) Business meeting, including consideration of proposed changes in the constitution (see next page) and by-laws; consideration of formation of new committees, including legal problems, membership, publicity, financial, endangered species, editorial, etc.; election of officers, and other matters.

See page 2 for further details. We hope to see you at the meeting!

MINNEAPOLIS MEETINGS (cont.)

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES to be considered at the annual meeting:

Secretary-Treasurership separated:

Art. III. Change "Secretary-Treasurer" to "Treasurer" in the last line.

Art. V. Change first sentence to read: "The officers of the Conservancy shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The President and Vice-President shall be elected for terms of one year; the Secretary and Treasurer, for terms of three years."

Art. VII. List the four officers again instead of three.

Board of Governors increased:

Art. VII. Change "--three other Members at Large, one of whom is to be elected each year--" to "--nine other Members at Large, three of whom are to be elected each year--" (or other number). Add "The Board of Governors may choose an executive Committee and other committees from among its members to transact business between meetings of the Board."

PROGRAM OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY includes a field trip to Itasca State Park, and technical sessions.

Field trip to Itasca State Park will be held September 7, 8, 9 (Friday noon to Sunday noon). Headquarters will be at the University of Minnesota Biological Station in the Park. Participants must arrange their transportation to the Park, which is 225 miles northwest of Minneapolis. Meals and lodging (mimeo sheets) will cost approximately $11. Mail reservations to Dr. Wm. H. Marshall, Biological Station, Douglas Lodge, Minnesota by August 20. Indicate number of persons requiring accomodations.

Technical sessions will be held at the University in Minneapolis Sept. 10, 11, 12. These include three symposia: "The definition, evolution, and significance of ecological niches for animals" organized by Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, "Ecology of grassland utilization in Central U.S." organized by Dr. F.W. Albertson, and "Water Conservation" organized by Dr. D.E. Davis. Also there will be general sessions of papers on plant and animal ecology.

ACCOMODATIONS AT MINNEAPOLIS will be provided in the dormitories on the campus. Cost is $3. for first night and $2. each additional night. Make reservations with payment in full before August 27. Write Clyde M. Christensen, Department of Plant Physiology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. For hotel accomodations, you may write direct to the Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis.

CITY PLANNING AND NATURE RESERVES

The planning movement is now well organized and it is receiving increasing recognition through the creation of state, county, and local planning boards. Nature preservation has a logical place in any planning program. In fact, one of the primary concerns of city planners is to provide for adequate open spaces in and around cities --in the form of parks, playgrounds, parkways, private farmlands, etc. Whether nature reserves hold their proper place among these uses of "open space" depends largely on us.

The following letter concerns Fernbank Forest, a natural area on the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia. It is a fine example of the cooperation that is possible between nature preservation groups and planners.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
Atlanta 3, Georgia

June 7, 1951

Mrs. Gertrude S. Russo
Fernbank Forest Association
849 Clifton Road, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Russo:

I was privileged to have a delightful visit with Miss Emily Harrison the other day and to talk to her about Fernbank Forest. As a result of this conversation I am prompted to write to you to express the very deep interest which we have in your wonderful project and to convey to you our sincere hope that Fernbank Forest will continue to serve the public in its unique way.

As Atlanta grows into a great urban center, it becomes more and more difficult to preserve those physical arrangements that make good, wholesome living possible for the citizens. We in Atlanta are blessed with an expanse of beautiful, rolling land and perhaps more than most cities we are able to avoid the blight of too much urban noise and congestion. We are also fortunate in that our greatest growth is coming at a time when our population is mobile, and hence we are able to expand outward rather than crowd ourselves into a small downtown area. Even with these advantages, however, we stand a good chance of destroying many of our natural beauties under the wheels of progress.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission was set up under Georgia Law to develop a master plan for the orderly growth and expansion of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area. Our job is to preserve and protect as well as to point the way for further expansion. An underlying premise of all our plans will be that good living in the city as well as elsewhere demands beauty.

Fernbank Forest represents the kind of natural beauty that should not be sacrificed in our march of big city progress. It is a great natural resource that is just as essential to the well-being of our citizens as a new expressway or an improved water system. It would be tragic indeed if anything were done which might deprive our people of the beauties that it has to offer.

Of course, Fernbank Forest is privately owned and the public has no right to demand that it be maintained for public use. All I am trying to say is that a grateful public today will be even more grateful tomorrow if this magnificent forest is maintained for the good of the entire community, and I am also trying to say as a planner that the maintenance of this great natural reservation is as important to the development of a greater Atlanta in the future as any physical improvement that can be proposed.

It would seem to me that there are so many individuals, groups and institutions in the area with a deep interest in Fernbank that there should be no question whatsoever about its future. I would think that an attempt to get organized support for Fernbank from various civic and special purpose groups would be very successful. I can think of no other project that might elicit a more universal backing than the preservation of Fernbank and an expanded program of activities using its resources.

Please let me know if we can be of any help to you at any time. Yours is a wonderful opportunity and we want you to let us help you if we can.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Philip Hammer, Director

REGIONAL NOTES

FLORIDA: Key Deer Refuge. A meeting was held in Key West, Florida, in June to draw up a compromise revision of the bill to protect the remnant of the diminutive Key deer. The bill will provide for leasing most of the lands needed for the refuge by the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as payments to the county in lieu of taxes. Congressman Wm. Lantaff of Florida, who introduced the original bill (H.R.2897) is submitting the revision to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The fate of the Key deer depends on this bill. It deserves your support.

WISCONSIN: Flambeau River Forest. Both houses of the Wisconsin legislature passed the bill to save this forest and Gov. Kohler's signature has now made it a law. The Wisconsin Conservation Department has thus been able to purchase the 1560 acre tract of virgin hemlock-hardwood forest. Last month, this magnificent forest was struck by winds of hurricane velocity for the third time within the past decade. Damage was considerable, especially on the south part of the tract. On July 31 Sect.-Treas. Hickey inspected the area with John T. Curtis of the Univ. of Wisconsin, Albert M. Fuller of the Milwaukee Public Museum, and C. L. Harrington, head of the forest and park section of the Wisconsin Conservation Dept. This group recommended that the undamaged central part of the forest be retained as a natural area to consist of 320 acres, and that limited access to the remaining parts of the forest be permitted to the public.

Wisconsin State Board for Preservation of Scientific Areas. The legislation creating this new board became effective on July 30. Proponents of the act hope that the Board will survey and study natural areas already owned by government agencies in the state, and that parts of state forests, state or county parks, and public hunting grounds may soon be set aside as natural areas in Wisconsin.

!HELP WANTED!

We need volunteer workers to organize preservation efforts in many states. If you are willing to help, let us know! We can supply you with a list of members in your state and with other information.

Here are some of the matters on which we need the help of active state units:

1) Revision of the Inventory of Nature Sanctuaries for the state.

2) Contacting each agency in the state owning or administering nature reserves to make sure that they know of the importance of these areas.

3) Preparation of a list of the types of plant communities in the state.

4) Review of possible methods of establishing nature reserves in the state.

These matters are all preliminary to the task of preserving areas, but they are essential to the development of an intelligent program.

If you would prefer some other sort of a job, we can supply it: Would you like to write? Talk to people? Do library research? --Let us hear from you.

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

A Technical Meeting on Nature Protection open to all interested persons will be held by the International Union at The Hague, Netherlands, on September 19 - 22, 1951.

Program will cover the following:

A. Rural landscapes as a habitat for flora and fauna in densely populated countries.

B. Management of nature reserves.

C. Study of miscellaneous current items, including:
   a) Problems of zoological gardens.
   b) Wild animal trade.
   c) Transportation of wild animals.
   d) Possible action on behalf of the whale.
   e) Activities of the Survival Service.
   Etc...

There will also be a field trip in connection with the meeting, on the 22nd and 23rd.

This promises to be an excellent meeting and we hope some of our members will attend. If you can go, notify the I.U.P.N. (address on next page), and us, immediately.

KIND WORDS DEPT.: THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 1, 1951.

CONSERVATION: WILDS

Group Is Formed to Preserve the Typical Unspoiled Areas Throughout Nation

By JOHN BERTRAM

WHEN the American continent was first settled, its forests, its prairies, its wildlife, its waters — in fact, all of its natural resources — seemed inexhaustible. It was hardly conceivable that a point could ever be reached when the growth of population, coupled with the destructiveness of man, would make it necessary to take active steps to preserve these resources against the threat of seeing them disappear completely, and forever. The conservation movement arose in the early years of the present century to meet that threat, and it has been waging an uphill, but increasingly hopeful, battle ever since. However, most of the efforts of both Government and private organizations have in the past been understandably devoted to the preservation either of areas notable for dramatic beauty and for unique natural wonders, such as the national parks, or of specific types of resources, such as forests or fish and game.

Relatively little attention has been paid to a form of conservation activity that is at once more general in scope, more limited in appeal and yet of at least as great importance as anything else that is being done in the vital field of protecting America's renewable natural resources. That is the preservation of a few representative tracts of land that are still in their original state and also small areas with unusual plant or animal life or geologic features. There are tracts that still maintain the same type of plant and animal community that existed before the coming of the white man, although good examples of certain specialized types no longer exist at all.

It is to encourage the formation of such nature reserves, which can be set aside for permanent preservation and study, that a farsighted group of American scientists has established an organization called The Nature Conservancy with headquarters at 1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and is now inviting everyone interested to join.

Diverse Types to Be Saved

The scientific, educational and esthetic values of such living museums as those envisaged by The Nature Conservancy are enormous. In addition to their obvious use in the study of basic biological research, these virgin tracts of forest, desert, prairie, mountain, swamp and so on, will one day be of incomparable interest as the sole survivors of the America that was. The important thing is to save as many of the diverse types as possible—now. A start has been made on a state-wide basis in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, but The Nature Conservancy is to give a national impetus to this movement.

The Wilderness Society (1840 Mintwood Place, Washington 9, D. C.), a national organization whose specific purpose is the defense of the country's wilderness areas, has devoted an entire issue of its quarterly magazine The Living Wilderness to a remarkable piece of work of one of the committees of The Nature Conservancy. This is a compilation of all existing nature sanctuaries in the United States and Canada, where the whole complex of plant and animal communities is relatively undisturbed. The sanctuaries are classified according to five general types (deciduous forest, coniferous forest, prairie, desert shrub and tundra) and three classes (depending on the extent to which the areas are protected or to which they actually maintain their original types of flora and fauna).

Almost 700 sanctuaries are listed, most of them, however, third class, which means that they are either inadequately protected or have undergone relatively important modifications from their primitive state. They range in size from a few dozen acres owned by cities or colleges to millions of acres in the large national parks and in the Canadian tundra preserves. This valuable survey will give the factual basis on which the need for new sanctuaries or nature reserves can be determined.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
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WASHINGTON 6, D C.
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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of our organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

The Nature Conservancy
1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is $.....

☐ Individual ☐ Organization

Membership classes are as follows:
Regular $2; Sustaining $5;
Contributing $10; Supporting $25 or more;
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TWO REFERENCE BOOKS ON NATURE PROTECTION

edited by the
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

The International Union for the Protection of Nature, which was established in 1948 as the result of the Fontainebleau Conference, is composed of the governments, public services, and national organizations representing twenty-six countries as well as international organizations. Its objects are to promote and co-ordinate action to limit the devastation which, deliberately or inadvertently, may be inflicted on the natural communities that form man's source of raw materials.

At the request of Unesco the Union organized the International Technical Conference that was held simultaneously with the United Nations Scientific Conference for the Conservation and Utilization of Resources (UNSCCUR) at Lake Success in August 1949. Two vitally important points were brought out in the discussion at the former Conference : namely, the necessity to awaken the peoples of the world to the need for the protection of nature by means of education, and the fundamental role played by the intimate interdependence of the natural factors that condition man's environment. Ecology, as this subject is called, forms the basis of all studies and experiments aimed at a better understanding and control of the natural cycles which are disturbed by man, in order to meet his ever increasing requirements. 115 communications, summary reports of the discussions, and the text of the conclusions and resolutions were comprised in the 583-page, octavo volume, which was edited by the Union's Secretariat and published by Unesco in February 1950. The volume contains valuable documentation on the problems that confront us to-day, and on the preservation of natural species and communities, the use of antiparasitic products, the destruction of herds of big game in Africa and Asia, the introduction of exotic species, the so-called planned enterprises, and lists of species threatened with extermination.

Further, again with the financial assistance of Unesco, the Union undertook an extensive inquiry into the measures taken in the different countries throughout the world for the preservation of natural resources (flora, fauna, soil, and water) against the damage that may arise from increase in population or wastefulness in exploiting such resources. In order to secure the fullest possible uniformity in the reports a questionnaire was circulated. Altogether seventy countries responded to the Unions's inquiry, and their combined reports provide for the first time a documentation on the state of nature protection in most of the countries in the world. In spite of some gaps, which it is hoped to fill by means of a supplementary volume, this 538-page, octavo volume will be found indispensable by all those interested in the problem of conservation.

Both volumes are obtainable from the offices of the Union, 42 Rue Montoyer, Brussels, Belgium, at the following prices :

Proceedings and Papers of the International Technical Conference on the Protection of Nature, Lake Success, August 1949, 175 Belgian francs ($ 3.50);

The Position of Nature Protection throughout the World in 1950, 200 Belgian francs ($ 4.00).

In each instance 20 Belgian francs should be added for postage outside Belgium and Luxemburg.

It may be noted that copies of the Union's statutes together with a brief report of the Fontainebleau Conference, including the European and African Technical Symposium, as well as the Proceedings and Reports of the Second General Asembly of the Union held at Brussels in October 1950 will be sent on request.